

Public Law 103-449  
103d Congress

An Act

Nov. 2, 1994  
[H.R. 1348]

To establish the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor in the State of Connecticut, and for other purposes.

Historic  
preservation.

Quinebaug and  
Shetucket  
Rivers Valley  
National  
Heritage  
Corridor Act of  
1994.  
16 USC 461 note.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## **TITLE I—QUINEBAUG AND SHETUCKET RIVERS VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR**

### **SECTION 101. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor Act of 1994”.

### **SEC. 102. FINDINGS.**

The Congress finds that—

(1) the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley in the State of Connecticut is one of the last unspoiled and undeveloped areas in the Northeastern United States and has remained largely intact, including important aboriginal archaeological sites, excellent water quality, beautiful rural landscapes, architecturally significant mill structures and mill villages, and large acreages of parks and other permanent open space;

(2) the State of Connecticut ranks last among the 50 States in the amount of federally protected park and open space lands within its borders and lags far behind the other Northeastern States in the amount of land set-aside for public recreation;

(3) the beautiful rural landscapes, scenic vistas and excellent water quality of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers contain significant undeveloped recreational opportunities for people throughout the United States;

(4) the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley is within a two-hour drive of the major metropolitan areas of New York City, Hartford, Providence, Worcester, Springfield, and Boston. With the President’s Commission on Americans Outdoors reporting that Americans are taking shorter “closer-to-home” vacations, the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley represents important close-by recreational opportunities for significant population;

(5) the existing mill sites and other structures throughout the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley were instrumental in the development of the industrial revolution;

(6) the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley contains a vast number of discovered and unrecovered Native American and colonial archaeological sites significant to the history of North America and the United States;

(7) the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley represents one of the last traditional upland farming and mill village communities in the Northeastern United States;

(8) the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley played a nationally significant role in the cultural evolution of the prewar colonial period, leading the transformation from Puritan to Yankee, the "Great Awakening" religious revival and early political development leading up to and during the War of Independence; and

(9) many local, regional and State agencies businesses, and private citizens and the New England Governors' Conference have expressed an overwhelming desire to combine forces: to work cooperatively to preserve and enhance resources region-wide and better plan for the future.

#### **SEC. 103. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUINEBAUG AND SHETUCKET RIVERS VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR; PURPOSE.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established in the State of Connecticut the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—It is the purpose of this title to provide assistance to the State of Connecticut, its units of local and regional government and citizens in the development and implementation of integrated cultural, historical, and recreational land resource management programs in order to retain, enhance, and interpret the significant features of the lands, water, and structures of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley.

#### **SEC. 104. BOUNDARIES AND ADMINISTRATION.**

(a) **BOUNDARIES.**—The boundaries of the Corridor shall include the towns of Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Coventry, Eastford, Franklin, Griswold, Hampton, Killingly, Lebanon, Lisbon, Mansfield, Norwich, Plainfield, Pomfret, Preston, Putnam, Scotland, Sprague, Sterling, Thompson, Voluntown, Windham, and Woodstock. As soon as practical after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a detailed description and map of boundaries established under this subsection.

Federal  
Register,  
publication.

#### **SEC. 105. STATE CORRIDOR PLAN.**

(a) **PREPARATION OF PLAN.**—Within two years after the date of enactment of this title, the Governor of the State of Connecticut is encouraged to develop a Cultural Heritage and Corridor Management Plan. The plan shall be based on existing Federal, State, and local plans, but shall coordinate those plans and present a comprehensive historic preservation, interpretation, and recreational plan for the Corridor. The plan shall—

(1) recommend non-binding advisory standards and criteria pertaining to the construction, preservation, restoration, alteration and use of properties within the Corridor, including an inventory of such properties which potentially could be preserved, restored, managed, developed, maintained, or acquired based upon their historic, cultural or recreational significance;

(2) develop an historic interpretation plan to interpret the history of the Corridor;

(3) develop an inventory of existing and potential recreational sites which are developed or which could be developed within the Corridor;

(4) recommend policies for resource management which consider and detail application of appropriate land and water management techniques, including but not limited to, the development of intergovernmental cooperative agreements to protect the Corridor's historical, cultural, recreational, scenic, and natural resources in a manner consistent with supporting appropriate and compatible economic revitalization efforts;

(5) detail ways in which local, State, and Federal programs may best be coordinated to promote the purposes of this title; and

(6) contain a program for implementation of the plan by the State and its political subdivisions.

(b) PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN PLAN DEVELOPMENT.—During development of the plan, the Governor is encouraged to include:

(1) The participation of at least the following:

(A) Local elected officials in the communities defined in section 104.

(B) Representatives of the three Regional Planning Agencies as defined in section 108.

(C) Representatives of Northeast Connecticut Visitors District and Southeastern Connecticut Tourism District.

(D) The Commissioners, or their designees, of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and the Connecticut Department of Economic Development.

(E) Director, or his designee of the Connecticut State Historical Commission.

(F) Residents of the communities within the Corridor as defined in section 104.

(2) Hold at least one public hearing in each of the following counties: Windham; Tolland; and New London.

(3) Consider, to the maximum extent practicable, the recommendations, comments, proposals and other information submitted at the public hearings when developing the final version of the plan. The Governor is encouraged to publish notice of hearings discussed in subparagraph (2) of this paragraph in newspapers of general circulation at least 30 days prior to the hearing date. The Governor is encouraged to use any other means authorized by Connecticut law to gather public input and/or involve members of the public in the development of the plan.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN.—After review of the plan by the Secretary as provided for in section 106, the Governor shall implement the plan. Upon the request of the Governor, the Secretary may take appropriate steps to assist in the preservation and interpretation of historic resources, and to assist in the development of recreational resources within the Corridor. These steps may include, but need not be limited to—

(1) assisting the State and local governmental entities or regional planning organizations, and non-profit organizations in preserving the Corridor and ensuring appropriate use of lands and structures throughout the Corridor;

(2) assisting the State and local governmental entities or regional planning organizations, and non-profit organizations in establishing and maintaining visitor centers and other interpretive exhibits in the Corridor;

(3) assisting the State and local governmental entities or regional planning organizations, and non-profit organizations in developing recreational programs and resources in the Corridor;

(4) assisting the State and local governmental entities or regional planning organizations, and non-profit organizations in increasing public awareness of and appreciation for the historical and architectural resources and sites in the Corridor;

(5) assisting the State and local governmental or regional planning organizations and non-profit organizations in the restoration of historic buildings within the Corridor identified pursuant to the inventory required in section 5(a)(1);

(6) encouraging by appropriate means enhanced economic and industrial development in the Corridor consistent with the goals of the plan;

(7) encouraging local governments to adopt land use policies consistent with the management of the Corridor and the goals of the plan; and

(8) assisting the State and local governmental entities or regional planning organizations to ensure that clear, consistent signs identifying access points and sites of interest are put in place throughout the Corridor.

#### **SEC. 106. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.**

(a) **ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary and the heads of other Federal agencies shall, upon request of the Governor assist the Governor in the preparation and implementation of the plan.

(b) **COMPLETION.**—Upon completion of the plan the Governor shall submit such plan to the Secretary for review and comment. The Secretary shall complete such review and comment within 60 days. The Governor shall make such changes in the plan as he deems appropriate based on the Secretary's review and comment.

#### **SEC. 107. DUTIES OF OTHER FEDERAL ENTITIES.**

Any Federal entity conducting or supporting activities directly affecting the Corridor shall consult with the Secretary and the Governor with respect to such activities to minimize any adverse effect on the Corridor.

#### **SEC. 108. DEFINITIONS.**

For the purposes of this title:

(1) The term "State" means the State of Connecticut.

(2) The term "Corridor" means the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor under section 3.

(3) The term "Governor" means the Governor of the State of Connecticut.

(4) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) The term "regional planning organizations" means each of the three regional planning organizations established by Connecticut State statute chapter 127 and chapter 50 (the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, the Windham Regional Planning Agency or its successor, and the

Southeastern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency or its successor).

#### SEC. 109. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to the appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this title: *Provided*, That not more than \$200,000 shall be appropriated for fiscal year 1995, and not more than \$250,000 annually thereafter shall be appropriated for the Secretary to carry out his duties under this title for a period not to exceed seven years: *Provided further*, That the Federal funding for the Corridor shall not exceed 50 percent of the total annual costs for the Corridor.

#### SEC. 110. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

The Corridor shall not be deemed to be a unit of the National Park System.

Weir Farm  
National  
Historic Site  
Expansion  
Act of 1994.  
16 USC 461 note.

## TITLE II—WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ADDITIONS

#### SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Weir Farm National Historic Site Expansion Act of 1994".

#### SEC. 202. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to preserve the last remaining undeveloped parcels of the historic Weir Farm that remain in private ownership by including the parcels within the boundary of the Weir Farm National Historic Site.

#### SEC. 203. BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT.

(a) **ADJUSTMENT.**—Section 4(b) of the Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-485; 104 Stat. 1171) is amended—

- (1) by striking out "and" at the end of paragraph (1);
- (2) by striking out the flush material below paragraph

(2); and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) the approximately 2-acre parcel of land situated in the town of Wilton, Connecticut, designated as lot 18 on a map entitled 'Revised Map of Section I, Thunder Lake at Wilton, Connecticut, Scale 1"=100', October 27, 1978, Ryan and Faulds Land Surveyors, Wilton, Connecticut', that is on file in the office of the town clerk of the town of Wilton, and therein numbered 3673; and

"(4) the approximately 0.9-acre western portion of a parcel of land situated in the town of Wilton, Connecticut, designated as Tall Oaks Road on the map referred to in paragraph (3)."

(b) **GENERAL DEPICTION.**—Section 4 of such Act, as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"(c) **GENERAL DEPICTION.**—The parcels referred to in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (b) are all as generally depicted on a map entitled 'Boundary Map, Weir Farm National Historic Site, Fairfield County Connecticut', dated June 1994. Such map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service."

# TITLE III—CANE RIVER CREOLE NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

Cane River  
Creole National  
Historical  
Park and  
National  
Heritage  
Area Act.  
16 USC 410ccc  
note.

## SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

Titles III and IV of this Act may be cited as the “Cane River Creole National Historical Park and National Heritage Area Act”.

## SEC. 302. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

16 USC 410ccc.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) the Natchitoches area along Cane River, established in 1714, is the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase territory;

(2) the Cane River area is the locale of the development of Creole culture, from French-Spanish interactions of the early 18th century of today's living communities;

(3) the Cane River, historically a segment of the Red River, provided the focal point for early settlement, serving as a transportation route upon which commerce and communication reached all parts of the colony;

(4) although a number of Creole structures, sites, and landscapes exist in Louisiana and elsewhere, unlike the Cane River area, most are isolated examples, and lack original outbuilding complexes or integrity;

(5) the Cane River area includes a great variety of historical features with original elements in both rural and urban settings and a cultural landscape that represents various aspects of Creole culture, providing the base for a holistic approach to understanding the broad continuum of history within the region;

(6) the Cane River region includes the Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District, composed of approximately 300 publicly and privately owned properties, four other national historic landmarks, and other structures and sites that may meet criteria for landmark significance following further study;

(7) historic preservation within the Cane River area has greatly benefitted from individuals and organizations that have strived to protect their heritage and educate others about their rich history; and

(8) because of the complexity and magnitude of preservation needs in the Cane River area, and the vital need for a culturally sensitive approach, a partnership approach is desirable for addressing the many preservation and educational needs.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of titles III and IV of this Act are to—

(1) recognize the importance of the Cane River Creole culture as a nationally significant element of the cultural heritage of the United States;

(2) establish a Cane River Creole National Historical Park to serve as the focus of interpretive and educational programs on the history of the Cane River area and to assist in the preservation of certain historic sites along the river; and

(3) establish a Cane River National Heritage Area and Commission to be undertaken in partnership with the State of Louisiana, the City of Natchitoches, local communities and settlements of the Cane River area, preservation organizations,



and private landowners, with full recognition that programs must fully involve the local communities and landowners.

16 USC 410ccc-1. **SEC. 303. ESTABLISHMENT OF CANE RIVER CREOLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to assist in the preservation and interpretation of, and education concerning, the Creole culture and diverse history of the Natchitoches region, and to provide technical assistance to a broad range of public and private landowners and preservation organizations, there is hereby established the Cane River Creole National Historical Park in the State of Louisiana (hereinafter in titles III and IV of this Act referred to as the “historical park”).

(b) **AREA INCLUDED.**—The historical park shall consist of lands and interests therein as follows:

(1) Lands and structures associated with the Oakland Plantation as depicted on map CARI, 80,002, dated January 1994.

(2) Lands and structures owned or acquired by Museum Contents, Inc. as depicted on map CARI, 80,001A, dated May 1994.

(3) Sites that may be the subject of cooperative agreements with the National Park Service for the purposes of historic preservation and interpretation including, but not limited to, the Melrose Plantation, the Badin-Rouge site, the Cherokee Plantation, the Beau Fort Plantation, and sites within the Natchitoches National Historical Landmark District: *Provided*, That such sites may not be added to the historical park unless the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretary”) determines, based on further research and planning, that such sites meet the applicable criteria for national historical significance, suitability, and feasibility, and notification of the proposed addition has been transmitted to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives.

(4) Not to exceed 10 acres of land that the Secretary may designate for an interpretive visitor center complex to serve the needs of the historical park and heritage area established in title IV of this Act.

16 USC 410ccc-2. **SEC. 304. ADMINISTRATION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer the historical park in accordance with this title and with provisions of law generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Act entitled “An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes”, approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1, 2–4); and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666, 16 U.S.C. 461–467). The Secretary shall manage the historical park in such a manner as will preserve resources and cultural landscapes relating to the Creole culture of the Cane River and enhance public understanding of the important cultural heritage of the Cane River region.

(b) **DONATIONS.**—The Secretary may accept and retain donations of funds, property, or services from individuals, foundations, or other public or private entities for the purposes of providing programs, services, facilities, or technical assistance that further the purposes of titles III and IV of this Act. Any funds donated

to the Secretary pursuant to this subsection may be expended without further appropriation.

(c) **INTERPRETIVE CENTER.**—The Secretary is authorized to construct, operate, and maintain an interpretive center on lands identified by the Secretary pursuant to section 303(b)(4). Such center shall provide for the general information and orientation needs of the historical park and the heritage area. The Secretary shall consult with the State of Louisiana, the City of Natchitoches, the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches, and the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission pursuant to section 402 of this Act in the planning and development of the interpretive center.

(d) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—(1) The Secretary, after consultation with the Cane River Heritage Area Commission established pursuant to section 402 of this Act, is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with owners of properties within the heritage area and owners of properties within the historical park that provide important educational and interpretive opportunities relating to the heritage of the Cane River region. The Secretary may also enter into cooperative agreements for the purpose of facilitating the preservation of important historic sites and structures identified in the historical park's general management plan or other heritage elements related to the heritage of the Cane River region. Such cooperative agreements shall specify that the National Park Service shall have reasonable rights of access for operational and visitor use needs and that preservation treatments will meet the Secretary's standards for rehabilitation of historic buildings.

(2) The Secretary is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the City of Natchitoches, the State of Louisiana, and other public or private organizations for the development of the interpretive center, educational programs, and other materials that will facilitate public use of the historical park and heritage area.

(e) **RESEARCH.**—The Secretary, acting through the National Park Service, shall coordinate a comprehensive research program on the complex history of the Cane River region, including ethnography studies of the living communities along the Cane River, and how past and present generations have adapted to their environment, including genealogical studies of families within the Cane River area. Research shall include, but not be limited to, the extensive primary historic documents within the Natchitoches and Cane River areas, and curation methods for their care and exhibition. The research program shall be coordinated with Northwestern State University of Louisiana, and the National Center for Preservation of Technology and Training in Natchitoches.

#### **SEC. 305. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.**

16 USC 410ccc-3.

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Secretary is authorized to acquire lands and interest therein within the boundaries of the historical park by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

(b) **STATE AND LOCAL PROPERTIES.**—Lands and interests therein that are owned by the State of Louisiana, or any political subdivision thereof, may be acquired only by donation or exchange.

(c) **MUSEUM CONTENTS, INC.**—Lands and structures identified in section 303(b)(2) may be acquired only by donation.



(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT SITES.—Lands and interests therein that are the subject of cooperative agreements pursuant to section 303(b)(3) shall not be acquired except with the consent of the owner thereof.

16 USC 410ccc-4. **SEC. 306. GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

Within 3 years after the date funds are made available therefor and in consultation with the Cane River Heritage Area Commission, the National Park Service shall prepare a general management plan for the historical park. The plan shall include, but need not be limited to—

(1) a visitor use plan indicating programs and facilities that will be provided for public use, including the location and cost of an interpretive center;

(2) programs and management actions that the National Park Service will undertake cooperatively with the heritage area commission, including preservation treatments for important sites, structures, objects, and research materials. Planning shall address educational media, roadway signing, and brochures that could be coordinated with the Commission pursuant to section 403 of this Act; and

(3) preservation and use plans for any sites and structures that are identified for National Park Service involvement through cooperative agreements.

Short title.  
Ante, p. 4757.

## **TITLE IV—CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**

16 USC  
410ccc-21.

**SEC. 401. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established the Cane River National Heritage Area (hereinafter in this title referred to as the “heritage area”).

(b) PURPOSE.—In furtherance of the need to recognize the value and importance of the Cane River region and in recognition of the findings of section 302(a) of this Act, it is the purpose of this title to establish a heritage area to complement the historical park and to provide for a culturally sensitive approach to the preservation of the heritage of the Cane River region, and for other needs including—

(1) recognizing areas important to the Nation’s heritage and identity;

(2) assisting in the preservation and enhancement of the cultural landscape and traditions of the Cane River region;

(3) providing a framework for those who live within this important dynamic cultural landscape to assist in preservation and educational actions; and

(4) minimizing the need for Federal land acquisition and management.

(c) AREA INCLUDED.—The heritage area shall include—

(1) an area approximately 1 mile on both sides of the Cane River as depicted on map CARI, 80,000A, dated May 1994;

(2) those properties within the Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District which are the subject of cooperative agreements pursuant to section 304(d) of this Act;

- (3) the Los Adaes State Commemorative Area;
- (4) the Fort Jesup State Commemorative Area;
- (5) the Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Commemorative Area;
- and
- (6) the Kate Chopin House.

A final identification of all areas and sites to be included in the heritage area shall be included in the heritage area management plan as required in section 403.

**SEC. 402. CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA COMMISSION.**

16 USC  
410ccc-22.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—To assist in implementing the purposes of titles II and III of this Act and to provide guidance for the management of the heritage area, there is established the Cane River National Heritage Area Commission (hereinafter in this title referred to as the “Commission”).

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Commission shall consist of 19 members to be appointed no later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this title. The Commission shall be appointed by the Secretary as follows—

- (1) one member from recommendations submitted by the Mayor of Natchitoches;
- (2) one member from recommendations submitted by the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches;
- (3) one member from recommendations submitted by the Natchitoches Historic Foundation, Inc.;
- (4) two members with experience in and knowledge of tourism in the heritage area from recommendations submitted by local business and tourism organizations;
- (5) one member from recommendations submitted by the Governor of the State of Louisiana;
- (6) one member from recommendations submitted by the Police Jury of Natchitoches Parish;
- (7) one member from recommendations submitted by the Concern Citizens of Cloutierville;
- (8) one member from recommendations submitted by the St. Augustine Historical Society;
- (9) one member from recommendations submitted by the Black Heritage Committee;
- (10) one member from recommendations submitted by the Los Adaes/Robeline Community;
- (11) one member from recommendations submitted by the Natchitoches Historic District Commission;
- (12) one member from recommendations submitted by the Cane River Waterway Commission;
- (13) two members who are landowners in and residents of the heritage area;
- (14) one member with experience and knowledge of historic preservation from recommendations submitted by the Museum Contents, Inc.;
- (15) one member with experience and knowledge of historic preservation from recommendations submitted by the President of Northwestern State University of Louisiana;
- (16) one member with experience in and knowledge of environmental, recreational and conservation matters affecting the heritage area from recommendations submitted by the Natchitoches Sportsman's Association and other local recreational and environmental organizations; and

(17) the director of the National Park Service, or the Director's designee, ex officio.

(c) DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.—The Commission shall—

(1) prepare a management plan for the heritage area in consultation with the National Park Service, the State of Louisiana, the City of Natchitoches, Natchitoches Parish, interested groups, property owners, and the public;

(2) consult with the Secretary on the preparation of the general management plan for the historical park;

(3) develop cooperative agreements with property owners, preservation groups, educational groups, the State of Louisiana, the City of Natchitoches, universities, and tourism groups, and other groups to further the purposes of titles III and IV of this Act; and

(4) identify appropriate entities, such as a non-profit corporation, that could be established to assume the responsibilities of the Commission following its termination.

(d) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—In furtherance of the purposes of titles III and IV of this Act, the Commission is authorized to—

(1) procure temporary and intermittent services to the same extent that is authorized by section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates determined by the Commission to be reasonable;

(2) accept the services of personnel detailed from the State of Louisiana or any political subdivision thereof, and may reimburse the State or political subdivision for such services;

(3) upon the request of the Commission, the head of any Federal agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the personnel of such agency to the Commission to assist the Commission in carrying out its duties;

(4) appoint and fix the compensation of such staff as may be necessary to carry out its duties. Staff shall be appointed subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates;

(5) enter into cooperative agreements with public or private individuals or entities for research, historic preservation, and education purposes;

(6) make grants to assist in the preparation of studies that identify, preserve, and plan for the management of the heritage area;

(7) notwithstanding any other provision of law, seek and accept donations of funds or services from individuals, foundations, or other public or private entities and expend the same for the purposes of providing services and programs in furtherance of the purposes of titles III and IV of this Act;

(8) assist others in developing educational, informational, and interpretive programs and facilities;

(9) hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence, as the Commission may consider appropriate; and

(10) use the United States mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments or agencies of the United States.

(e) **COMPENSATION.**—Members of the Commission shall receive no compensation for their service on the Commission. While away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission, members shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(f) **CHAIRMAN.**—The Commission shall elect a chairman from among its members. The term of the chairman shall be for 3 years.

(g) **TERMS.**—The terms of Commission members shall be for 3 years. Any member of the Commission appointed by the Secretary for a 3-year term may serve after expiration of his or her term until a successor is appointed. Any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor was appointed.

(h) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—The Commission shall submit an annual report to the Secretary identifying its expenses and any income, the entities to which any grants or technical assistance were made during the year for which the report is made, and actions that are planned for the following year.

#### SEC. 403. PREPARATION OF THE PLAN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Within 3 years after the Commission conducts its first meeting, it shall prepare and submit a heritage area management plan to the Governor of the State of Louisiana. The Governor shall, if the Governor approves the plan, submit it to the Secretary for review and approval. The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to the Commission in the preparation and implementation of the plan, in concert with actions by the National Park Service to prepare a general management plan for the historical park. The plan shall consider local government plans and shall present a unified heritage preservation and education plan for the heritage area. The plan shall include, but not be limited to—

(1) an inventory of important properties and cultural landscapes that should be preserved, managed, developed, and maintained because of their cultural, natural, and public use significance;

(2) an analysis of current land uses within the area and how they affect the goals of preservation and public use of the heritage area;

(3) an interpretive plan to address the cultural and natural history of the area, and actions to enhance visitor use. This element of the plan shall be undertaken in consultation with the National Park Service and visitor use plans for the historical park;

(4) recommendations for coordinating actions by local, State, and Federal governments within the heritage area, to further the purposes of titles III and IV of this Act; and

(5) an implementation program for the plan including desired actions by State and local governments and other involved groups and entities.

(b) **APPROVAL OF THE PLAN.**—The Secretary shall approve or disapprove the plan within 90 days after receipt of the plan from the Commission. The Commission shall notify the Secretary of

16 USC  
410ccc-23.

Technical  
assistance.

the status of approval by the Governor of Louisiana when the plan is submitted for review and approval. In determining whether or not to approve the plan the Secretary shall consider—

(1) whether the Commission has afforded adequate opportunity, including public meetings and hearings, for public and governmental involvement in the preparation of the plan; and

(2) whether reasonable assurances have been received from the State and local governments that the plan is supported and that the implementation program is feasible.

(c) **DISAPPROVAL OF THE PLAN.**—If the Secretary disapproves the plan, he shall advise the Commission in writing of the reasons for disapproval, and shall provide recommendations and assistance in the revision plan. Following completion of any revisions to the plan, the Commission shall resubmit the plan to the Governor of Louisiana for approval, and to the Secretary, who shall approve or disapprove the plan within 90 days after the date that the plan is revised.

16 USC  
410ccc-24.

#### **SEC. 404. TERMINATION OF HERITAGE AREA COMMISSION.**

(a) **TERMINATION.**—The Commission shall terminate on the day occurring 10 years after the first official meeting of the Commission.

(b) **EXTENSION.**—The Commission may petition to be extended for a period of not more than 5 years beginning on the day referred to in subsection (a), provided the Commission determines a critical need to fulfill the purposes of titles III and IV of this Act; and the Commission obtains approval from the Secretary, in consultation with the Governor of Louisiana.

(c) **HERITAGE AREA MANAGEMENT FOLLOWING TERMINATION OF THE COMMISSION.**—The national heritage area status for the Cane River region shall continue following the termination of the Commission. The management plan, and partnerships and agreements subject to the plan shall guide the future management of the heritage area. The Commission, prior to its termination, shall recommend to the Governor of the State of Louisiana and the Secretary, appropriate entities, including the potential for a nonprofit corporation, to assume the responsibilities of the Commission.

16 USC  
410ccc-25.

#### **SEC. 405. DUTIES OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

Any Federal entity conducting or supporting activities directly affecting the heritage area shall—

(1) consult with the Secretary and the Commission with respect to implementation of their proposed actions; and

(2) to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate such activities with the Commission to minimize potential impacts on the resources of the heritage area.

**SEC. 406. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**16 USC  
410ccc-26.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out titles III and IV of this Act.

Approved November 2, 1994.

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 1348:****HOUSE REPORTS:** No. 103-233 (Comm. on Natural Resources).**SENATE REPORTS:** No. 103-305 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).**CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:**

Vol. 139 (1993): Sept. 13, considered and passed House.

Vol. 140 (1994): Oct. 6, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Oct. 7, House concurred in Senate amendment.